

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02984 121026Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SSC-01 /067 W
-----080555 121730Z /43

R 120902Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7413
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 02984

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TW
SUBJECT: LEADING CANDIDATE FOR ROC PREMIER

REF: TAIPEI 02875

1. IN PERIOD SINCE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS IN REFTEL ECONOMIC MINISTER SUN YUN-HSUAN'S NAME HAS RISEN TO THE TOP OF THE RUMOR LIST AS FAVORED CANDIDATE FOR PREMIER. IN ADDITION TO FAVORABLE LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT HINTING THAT HE IS THE MAN FOR THE JOB, SEVERAL MISSION CONTACTS HAVE SAID THEY ARE NOW CERTAIN SUN WILL BE NAMED. HOW THEY KNOW IS A QUESTION BUT EVEN IF THEY HAVE INSIDE INFORMATION, CCK IS CAPABLE OF PULLING A LYNDON JOHNSON IF HE BECAME ANNOYED OVER LEAKS OR TOO MUCH BEFORE-THE-FACT PUBLICITY.

2. ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER Y. T. WONG TOLD ECON COUNS. THAT SUN IS IN THE PROCESS OF PHASING OUT OF HIS PRESENT POSITION, HANDING OVER RESPONSIBILITIES TO SUBORDINATES AND "READING IN" ON NEW SUBJECTS. WONG EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AND IT IS NOW IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE COMPLETELY THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 02984 121026Z

PREPARATIONS FOR SUN TO ASSUME THE NEW OFFICE. WONG'S CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SUN ADDS WEIGHT TO HIS CONVICTION BUT IT IS STILL BASED ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. MEANWHILE, A RANKING KMT OFFICIAL MENTIONED TO COLLEAGUES IN PRESENCE OF MISSION OFFICER THAT SUN'S APPOINTMENT WAS "CERTAIN." HE DID NOT SAY HOW HE KNEW.

3. SUN IS ALSO PRIME CANDIDATE OF LOCAL PRESS. RECENT ARTICLES STRESS SUN'S QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE, CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CCK, AND HIS APPARENT FULL RECOVERY FOLLOWING THE HEART ATTACK HE SUFFERED IN 1971. SUN HAS RECENTLY RESUMED ACCOMPANYING CCK ON HIS TRIPS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE (PARTICULARLY TO ENGINEERING SITES) AND MOST RECENTLY TO KINMEN AND THE PENGHU'S. THIS IS REGARDED LOCALLY AS A SIGN OF CCK'S HIGH PERSONAL REGARD AND SUN'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEOPLE AND THEIR PROBLEMS AS WELL AS AN INDICATION OF HIS IMPROVED HEALTH. LOCAL REPORTING HAS ALSO EMPHASIZED SUN'S ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AND FAVORABLY COMPARED HIS ACHIEVEMENTS TO THOSE OF OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR PREMIER. SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI02984
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780202-0856
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780562/aaaacapi.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b623969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TAIPEI 2875
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2701433
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEADING CANDIDATE FOR ROC PREMIER
TAGS: PINT, TW, (SUN YUN-HSUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b623969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014